

Against the Grain

Volume 29 | Issue 3

Article 78

June 2017

Charleston Conference 2017-Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition

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Recommended Citation

(2017) "Charleston Conference 2017-Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 29: Iss. 3, Article 78.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7934>

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2017 Charleston Conference — 37th Annual Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition

Call For Papers, Ideas, Conference Themes, Panels, Debates, Diatribes, Speakers, Poster Sessions, Preconferences, etc. ...

2017 Theme — “What’s Past is Prologue”

Preconferences — Monday & Tuesday, November 6-7, 2017
Vendor Showcase — Tuesday, November 7, 2017
Main Conference — Wednesday-Friday, November 8-10, 2017
Charleston Gaillard Center, Francis Marion Hotel, Courtyard Marriott Historic District,
Embassy Suites Historic Downtown, Charleston, South Carolina

If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, coordinating a lively lunch, or would like to make sure we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The **Charleston Conference** prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility, and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We’ll probably love it...

The Conference Directors for the **2017 Charleston Conference** include — **Beth Bernhardt**, Principal Director (UNC-Greensboro) <beth_bernhardt@uncg.edu>, **Glenda Alvin** (Tennessee State University) <galvin@Tnstate.edu>, **Adam Chesler** (AIP) <adam.chesler@cox.net>, **Ed Collieran** (Triumvirate Content Consultants) <ecollieran@triumvirateconsultants.com>, **Cris Ferguson** (Murray State University) <cferguson13@murraystate.edu>, **Rachel Fleming** (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) <rachel-fleming@utc.edu>, **Joyce Dixon-Fyle** (DePauw University Libraries) <joyfyle@depauw.edu>, **Erin Gallagher** (Reed College) <gallagher@reed.edu>, **Tom Gilson** (*Against the Grain*) <gilson@cofc.edu>, **Chuck Hamaker** (UNC-Charlotte) <cahamake@email.uncc.edu>, **Bobby Hollandsworth** (Clemson University) <hollan4@clemson.edu>, **Tony Horava** (University of Ottawa) <thorava@uottawa.ca>, **Albert Joy** (Retired) <albert.joy@uvm.edu>, **Ramune Kubilius** (Northwestern Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>, **Erin Luckett** (Readex) <eluckett@newsbank.com>, **Jack Montgomery** (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>, **David Myers** (DMedia Associates) <dave@dmediaassoc.com>, **Ann Okerson** (Center for Research Libraries) <aokerson@gmail.com>, **Audrey Powers** (UFS Tampa Library) <apowers@lib.usf.edu>, **Heather Staines** (Hypothes.is) <heather.staines@gmail.com>, **Anthony Watkinson** (Consultant) <anthony.watkinson@btinternet.com>, **Meg White** (Rittenhouse) <meg.white@rittenhouse.com>, **Katina Strauch** (College of Charleston) <kstrauch@comcast.net>, or www.charlestonlibraryconference.com.

Send ideas by July 14, 2017 to any of the Conference Directors listed above. The Call for Papers form will open on April 18, 2017 at <http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/participate/call-for-papers/>.

Or send ideas to: Katina Strauch, P.O. Box 799, Sullivan’s Island, SC 29482 • 843-723-3536 (voice) • 843-509-2848 (cell) <kstrauch@comcast.net> • www.charlestonlibraryconference.com



Things That Keep Us Awake at Night from page 1

for the purposes of profit or propaganda, for example a whole range of predatory journals, including those recently exposed for accepting articles by “Dr. Fraud” (an entirely made up academic).

The public is waking up to the serious ramifications that fake news has for political processes, with the likes of Facebook and Google being asked to be part of the solution. The consequences of fake research are arguably just as dangerous and immediate for the millions of doctors, scientists, policymakers and more who rely on it to make do-or-die decisions every day. If a doctor makes a treatment plan based on fake research, it could risk the patient’s life.

I’m therefore delighted that in this issue of *ATG* we have two contributions on this important topic. The first is by **Donald Barclay** and the second by **Scott Plutchak**. I really encourage you to read both — they were developed independently but are highly complementary and reflect whether there are pragmatic things that can be done to tackle these issues, and/or whether an intellectual paradigm shift is required. I’m not convinced there is a single right answer, but

having read these pieces I’m newly convinced there are no quick and easy solutions. From where I am sitting, better peer review, research reproducibility, and analytics will be necessary ingredients.

Metrics have become surprisingly compelling to me, trained and firmly committed as a qualitative social scientist. But oh... the power of numbers is something I’ve come to really appreciate since joining **Elsevier**. Everything is measured here, occasionally in very painful detail. But there is something powerful in numbers and robust metrics for getting at reality and trends, and especially when these are counterintuitive or at odds with our own beliefs and perceptions. Other members of the research community clearly find metrics compelling too, given the range of articles in **Elsevier Connect** categorized under metrics and analytics and addressing topics from gender to research performance (<https://www.elsevier.com/connect/home?f.Tags|terms=metrics&f.Tags|terms=data%20%26%20analytics&f.Community|community=elsevier%20connect>). **Roger Schonfeld** and colleagues at **Ithaka** have got a great deal of experience in terrific longitudinal studies to gather metrics on the impact of libraries. Much of this work has focused on the contribution libraries make to teaching, and

it would be really compelling to have even more insight into the contribution that libraries make to improving research performance.

I first aspired to help create an open access world in 2001, and sometimes really cannot believe that in 2017 it still hasn’t come to pass. And why is this? It is certainly not because it is impossible. It is not because there are vested interests that throw up road blocks. It is not because of copyright. Or money. Or profits. Or indeed many of the other things I regularly hear cited as “the barrier.” I firmly believe it is because we are not pragmatic enough, and do not spend enough time together figuring out how to just make it work for all stakeholders. If we did, it would be. Instead we use “open” as if it were a battlefield or a grassy field on which all sorts of other games are played. Anyway, this keeps me awake at night. However, as it was my day job, and this exercise is in halving problems by sharing them, I asked my wonderful colleague **Gemma Hersh** for her perspective on making open a reality. She’s come up with a great piece that spans open access, open data, and open science and to my delight she also focusses on the importance of collaboration to make it all a reality. I hope you will enjoy reading what she has to say as much as I did.

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